representatives from NGOs and some Government Departments/Ministries. The terms of references of the Committee *inter alia* are to revise and harmonize the CBFC Guidelines and Cable Television Programme/ Advertising Codes and AIR Code in accordance with contemporary community standards and the laws in force and to amplify the provisions of the community standards and the laws in force and to amplify the provisions of the Guidelines/Codes with a view to enable the Film/TV/ Radio Industry to use them for self-regulation and minimize the scope of their subjective interpretation, on the lines of OFCOM/Australian codes.

The Press in India is free from Government control and is in private hands. In pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of the Press, the Government does not interfere in the its functioning. The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with the twim object of preserving the freedom of the Press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and to inculcate principles of self-regulation among the press. The Government follows a policy of non-interference in the functioning of the Council and it enjoys complete autonomy in its functioning. The Council, which is in the nature of a self-regulatory body of the Press, has built "Norms of Journalistic Conduct", which cover principles and ethics with regard to journalism as also guidelines on reporting the specific issues of public and national importance. The provisions 6,7 & 8 of the "Norms of Journalistic Conduct" stipulate for "Right to Privacy", "Privacy of Public figures" and "Recording interviews and phone conversation". The advisories issued by the Press Council of India, however, carry only moral force and are not enforceable in a Court of Law.

(c) Does not arise.

Financial condition of Prasar Bharati

1420. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to make the Prasar Bharati financially viable; and

(b) if no steps are being taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The revenue generation of Prasar Bharati has started improving which is showing an increasing trend in the recent years. A Committee has also been constituted by the Government

for suggesting a viable capital and financial structure for Prasar Bharati so as to strengthen its functioning. The ten Member Committee is headed by Secretary (I&B) and has representation of senior-level officers of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting as well as Prasar Bharati besides the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance.

Marketing and production of violent video games

1421. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn on marketing and production of violent video games in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government attention has also been drawn on the harmful psychological effect on the young children; and

(c) if so, the steps are being taken to stop the marketing of such type of video games and action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (c) The subject matter does not pertain to this Ministry. However, information is being collected from various Ministries/Departments and will be laid on the table of the house.

Censor board for advertisements

†1422. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards several advertisements being shown on T.V. and brought out by newspapers and other mediums;

(b) if so, whether any Censor Board has been constituted by Government to check these advertisement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the scope of this Censor Board?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (c) As far as Doordarshan and Private TV Channels are concerned, there is no pre-censorship of any advertisements. Doordarshan is controlled by its Code for Commercial Advertising and all the advertisements/programmes of satellite TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through Cable Network service are required to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.